

Microbicides hold particular promise in Africa, where, as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said in 2003, women must be placed at the center of the HIV/AIDS strategy. "If you want to save Africa, you must save the African woman first," he said. "It is they who nurture the social networks that help societies share burdens." Yet, as Lesotho's Minister of Health and Social Welfare Deborah K. Raditapole describes, many African women have little ability to protect themselves or their children: Having sex with her husband is considered a wife's duty, even when she knows that her husband has had other partners and wishes to protect herself. If she insists that he uses a condom or refuses to have sex with him, she may be beaten or abandoned. Even if a woman suspects that her spouse may have been exposed to HIV, she has nowhere to turn for support, and there are no laws to protect her.

That is why Ilene Wong, a Stanford Hospital physician, calls microbicide development a "lifesaving safety net." In *The Washington Post* last summer, she wrote: In my nightmares, I see the women we have failed to protect from AIDS. . . . I despair for my sisters in Africa, who know that abstinence is rarely an option for the powerless and poor. Rather, it's a luxury for those confident that they will eat tomorrow. A truly comprehensive and far-sighted global AIDS program would recognize that women need their own weapons against HIV. They need microbicides.

In the Gleneagles statement issued last July, the G8 recognized the need for a greater commitment to global health and joined the chorus of respected health organizations calling for expedited microbicide development. Other organizations that have recognized the potential of microbicides include the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the National Institutes of Health, the National Women's Health Network and the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

Microbicide development is not just a life-and-death matter for women in other countries, it is equally crucial for women in the United States. In Illinois, over 30,000 AIDS cases have been reported and we have suffered 16,400 deaths since 1981. As in other parts of the world, women and especially women of color represent a growing proportion of new infections in Illinois. The AIDS Foundation of Chicago has been a leader in calling for expanded microbicide R&D as part of their comprehensive efforts to address the AIDS epidemic. David Munar, Jim Pickett and others at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago have been instrumental in helping to design this bill and in bringing attention to the need to put prevention tools against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases directly into women's and men's hands.

I also want to thank the many women who, infected themselves, have come forward to push for microbicide development in order to protect other women. Women like Chicagoan Debra Fleming, an African American woman who has lived with HIV for 20 years and says, "I know plenty of women who really don't have a choice when it comes to using protection with their partners. Condoms are just an option for them because a lot of these women are battered. With a microbicide, a woman can protect herself from both HIV and a black eye."

And I want to thank my constituent, Patrice Dean, who has been HIV+ for 15 years, who

is also part of the fight for prevention. "If microbicides would have been available to me, I may never have become infected," she says. "They are important for all women, especially women of childbearing age who want to have a child but not risk infection. They are also important for married couples, where it may be difficult for a woman to negotiate condoms. Men don't like condoms, never have, never will. That is always an issue."

Women will soon comprise over half of the world's HIV/AIDS-infected people. They need HIV-prevention tools that they can use themselves, without having to rely on reluctant and sometimes even abusive partners. The Microbicide Development Act will spur development of those tools. I hope that my colleagues will join us in cosponsoring this bill and in pushing for its enactment.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in mourning the loss and honoring the life of Simon Wiesenthal.

Simon Wiesenthal died this week in Vienna at the age of 96. He was a survivor of the resistance movement and lived through internment in Nazi concentration camps. He became the most famous Nazi hunter when he returned to Vienna after World War II. Mr. Wiesenthal devoted his career to exposing and documenting Nazi atrocities and bringing perpetrators to justice.

After World War II and the Holocaust, Mr. Wiesenthal became the permanent representative of Holocaust victims, determined to bring the perpetrators of one of history's greatest crimes to justice and punishment. He took the job no one else wanted, and he charged himself with the task that few sought.

He was a voice of conscience for all humanity and he inspired world leaders and individuals to fight anti-Semitism and intolerance. Mr. Wiesenthal is best known for his instrumental investigative research that contributed to the capture and conviction of more than 1,100 Nazi war criminals, including Adolf Eichmann, the architect of the "Final Solution." Through the Simon Wiesenthal Center, he also promoted Holocaust remembrance, the fight against racism and anti-Semitism, and the monitoring of neo-Nazi and other extremist groups worldwide.

Simon Wiesenthal's message, mission and courage will not die with him. He has shown us all what it means to fight the fight, whether unpopular or difficult, whether lonely or tedious. Because of Mr. Wiesenthal's courageous, gutsy and earnest work, we have learned as a country what it means to stand up for what is right. As a Member of Congress, I will always follow Mr. Wiesenthal's precedent, and will continue to lead my colleagues in Congress to fight anti-Semitism and intolerance wherever it may be.

CONGRATULATING THE O'LEARY COMPANY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the O'Leary Company, an engineering, planning and construction company from western Massachusetts that is celebrating its 50th Anniversary of building excellence this month. Simply put, the company is the one of the most experienced design-build commercial contractors in the northeast region.

From humble beginnings, Edward J. O'Leary started his own construction business in Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1955. With an emphasis on quality workmanship and customer service, the company quickly began to grow. A relationship with the Kansas City based Butler Manufacturing Company was a defining point for the company. Working with Butler, a leader in the marketing, design and production of systems for commercial and industrial buildings, enabled Ed O'Leary to take on larger construction projects. That partnership has created hundreds of jobs, successfully completed 1,200 projects and sold more than \$40 million dollars in Butler steel.

But the O'Leary Company's history is more than just sales and completed projects. Strong corporate values have long been the key to their success. They have a reputation in the community for integrity, reliability and quality. And their contribution to the local economy cannot be minimized.

Whether it is aircraft hangers at Westover Air Reserve Base, the Quill Corporation Building in Agawam, MA, the Ludlow Technical Products property, or the state-of-the-art WWLP TV-22 studio in Chicopee, MA, the O'Leary Company has helped make our region a better place to work and do business. They truly have made a difference in the quality of life in western Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join with me in wishing Randy Conklin, Brian Hill and the employees of the O'Leary Company another 50 years of success. I am confident that they will remain an invaluable builder, employer and corporate partner in western Massachusetts for many years to come.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES JUNIOR GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor the United States Junior Girls' Soccer Team, winners of the Gold Medal at the World Maccabi Games held in Israel this summer. The World Maccabi games are an Olympic-style competition that is among the top sporting events in the world. Participants in the games are Jewish athletes from countries all over the world. The National team was chosen from a group of 65 girls nationwide who were selected to try out